PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Vol. 4, No. 5 September 1993

Recycled Paper

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Many faint with toil that few may know the cares and woe of sloth." Shelley, *The Queen of Mab*

Free

Gay Rights Opposed In Washington State

Joli Sandoz

Efforts to prohibit the protection of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in civil rights legislation are underway in Washington state. Two groups plan to sponsor 1994 initiative measures which could would put gay rights to popular vote.

The Citizens Alliance of Washington made its intentions known at a January press conference in the capitol rotunda in Olympia. And in June, the Washington Public Affairs Council (WPAC) circulated a four-page fund-raising letter entitled "Initiative to Stop Special Rights for Homosexuals."

Washington state law allows voters to petition to put proposed legislation on the statewide ballot. During 1994, signatures of 181,000 registered voters will be required to place an initiative before the people. Signature-gathering for the November, 1994 election cannot begin before January and must end in early July.

The last time Washington state supporters tried to qualify an anti-gay initiative for statewide consideration, in 1986, they failed to obtain the required number of signatures. Recent anti-gay rights efforts have gathered backing in other western states, however. Last November Coloradans amended that state's constitution to forbid gay-rights protections. And more than half a million Oregonians backed Measure 9, which would have declared homosexuality "abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse" and forbidden the use of government funds to "promote" homosexuality. The Oregon Citizens Alliance-sponsored measure failed to become law by a vote of 742,271 (57 percent) to 564,232 (43 percent).

At present, the Citizens Alliance of Washington, a chapter of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, has little apparent power base in Washington state. Although OCA efforts continue to be successful in Oregon, where anti-gay rights laws now affect seven cities and counties (and where at least one OCA member is challenging local gay-positive library books), the group has reported raising just $351.59 in Washington state this year. CAW's effectiveness in Washington state remains to be proven.

photo by BJW

Oregonians march for lesbian/gay/bisexual rights in 1992.

Two groups plan to sponsor 1994 initiative measures which could would put gay rights to popular vote.

Washington Public Affairs Council (WPAC)

WPAC has better local connections. WPAC chair Doug Burman led a Tacoma campaign which repealed a local anti-discrimination law protecting gay rights in 1989. Until recently, Burman directed the Washington Family Council (WFC), a statewide group which defines its purpose as "to promote and establish Christian family values in Washington state." WFC is affiliated with national "pro-family" and religious right power, Focus on the Family.

Burman also appears in Secretary of State organization registration files as vice-chair of Washington United, a political action committee which helped lead the fight against state abortion and right-to-die initiatives in 1991. Washington United remains active; as of July 31, 1993, the organization

(Continued page10)

Olympia's Homeless Men: Countdown to Winter

H.E.L.P. Needs Your Help!

Greg Hohnholt

Three words sum up the City's summertime stance towards homeless men: Business As Usual. The First Baptist Church has continued to shoulder the burden of providing emergency services for the 40-55 homeless men who refuse to conform to the Salvation Army's controversial policies every night, policies which dictate one set of rules and expectations for single men, and another set for women and children. Now that winter is approaching, perhaps Olympia is about to wake up to the obvious fact that women and men placed outside in freezing temperatures will undoubtedly suffer from exposure at the same rate.

Reflection upon this simple fact, however, nevertheless presents us with complex questions: do homeless men deserve the same type of home-like environment that are now available to homeless women and children? Can we expect a man to "get back on his feet" financially and psychologically when he is offered *shelter* instead of a home, when he is made to feel like an outcast instead of a viable member of our community? Or, as Richard J. Barnet, in this month's *Harper's* , sums up the general dilemma, "What basic economic claims on society [do] human beings have by virtue of being here?"

My purpose for writing today is to introduce *WiP* 's readers to H.E.L.P. (Homeless Empowerment & Lodging Project), a nonprofit advocacy group that arose to address these questions. Its primary mission is to generate support for what its president Randy Shaw calls the "home philosophy". HELP asserts that if men are to re-learn how to live a dignified and independent life in contemporary society, they must be granted a nonjudgemental, home-like environment; one that enables the homeless to integrate themselves back into the community through self-governance. This philosophy naturally runs counter to the Salvation Army's authoritarian policies, and the ideological infighting that has arose as a result has only worsened an already overpoliticized power struggle. (See my related article in last month's *WiP* , "Power Struggle Slows Progress on Homeless Men Issue").

Since its inception early this year, however, HELP has been involved with the preliminary "spade work" of opening up the lines of communi-

(Continued back page)

"What basic economic claims on society [do] human beings have by virtue of being here?"* Harper's *Barnet

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Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

Fall Activities

Racism and Hate Crimes

Open discussion following talk by Jerome Johnson

October 2

1-3pm

Olympia Timberland Library
Conference room
(8th and Franklin)
Refreshments served

Jerome Johnson is Coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, host of KAOS talk show Up Front which focuses on Afro-American Affairs, and is in pursuit of a Masters' Degree at TESC.

Call 357-6243 for more information.

Initiatives 601 and 602

What are the impacts if they pass? Who wins? Who loses?

Speakers from:

- Local Municipalities
- Higher Education
- State Employees Union
- Social Services
- Health Care

October 23

1-3pm

First Christian Church
Kainonia Hall
(7th and Franklin)
Refreshments served

The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition has taken a negative position on these initiatives.

Call 956-3564 for more information.

Next general Rainbowmeeting:

Saturday, September 11 1-3 pm

900 East Bay Drive #A103

Call Evelyn at 357-8463 for more information

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition:
Jerome Johnson, Coordinator
Teresa Jennings, Secretary
J.P. Johnston, Treasurer

Spar Restaurant And Bar placed on "do not patronize list"

The Thurston-Lewis Counties Labor Council has placed The Spar Restaurant And Bar on the do not patronize list. All affiliated union members are urged to patronize another union house in Olympia, The Governor House (Patricks), The Tyee or The Quality Inn Westwater.

This action was requested at the behest of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 8.

The Spar joins the following other local businesses that we do not patronize: Costco, Ernst, and Henry C's House of Prime Rib.

For more information: Bridget Flory 956-4781

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Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Scott Yoos	Sylvia Smith
Greg Bye	Dave Zink

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Along the Color Line

Beyond Black and White

Dr. Manning Marable

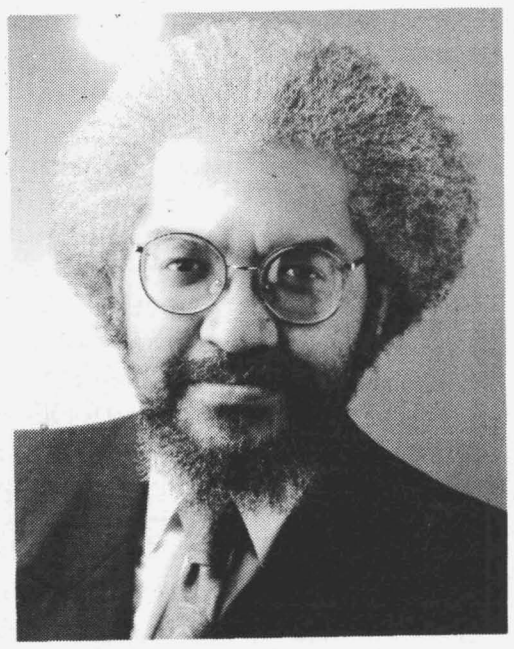
Growing up in Dayton, Ohio, in the fifties and sixties, I lived in a world which was almost exclusively "black" and "white." My family's home was on the "black" West Side of town, where the vast majority of African-Americans lived. Working-class white ethnics lived in the small wooden homes in East Dayton; the well-to-do whites lived in Oakwood and other affluent suburbs. We were vaguely aware that the white community was subdivided into divergent and sometimes bickering neighborhoods. But we always knew that the basic racial division was between black and white.

A generation later, America is rapidly becoming a diverse mixture of ethnic groups and languages. The Census Bureau recently reported that as of 1990, one person in seven among the nation's 230 million residents over the age of five, either grew up or is currently speaking a language other than English. About 32 million Americans now consider English a "foreign language."

The largest single group on non-English language speakers are Latinos. Between 1980 and 1990, the number of Americans who speak Spanish in their homes over the age of five years has jumped 50 percent, from 11.5 to 17.3 million. During the same decade, there was a sharp increase in the number of speakers of Asian languages: Chinese (1.2 million speakers), Tagalog, the main language of the Philippines (850,000), Korean (625,000), Vietnamese (510,000), and Japanese (430,000). The single fastest-growing language since 1980 was Mon-Khmer, spoken by Cambodians, who increased from 16,000 to 127,000, or 676 percent. The states with the highest percentage of citizens who speak a foreign language are New Mexico, with 34 percent, followed by California (32 percent), Texas (25 percent), Hawaii (25 percent), and New York (23 percent).

African-Americans must take the lead in recognizing that the struggle for equal rights in the twenty-first century requires an extensive and sympathetic dialogue between all of this country's nonwhite minorities.

The influx of new immigrants from South and Central America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, has sparked a series of political and legal controversies. In the state of California, English-speaking residents are expressing anger and hostility about the growth of the Latino and Asian population. Last year alone, more than 300,000 people from foreign countries moved to California. About 300,000 undocumented immigrants in the state are currently eligible for Medi-Cal health insurance, at a cost of nearly $900 million. One in nine of the state's prison inmates are undocumented immigrants. The state government is paying $250 million per year to house these prisoners. although virtually all economists and social scientist state that illegal immigrants generally produce jobs and greater wealth to everyone within the society, the false impression that they constitute a negative factor within the economy has become widespread.



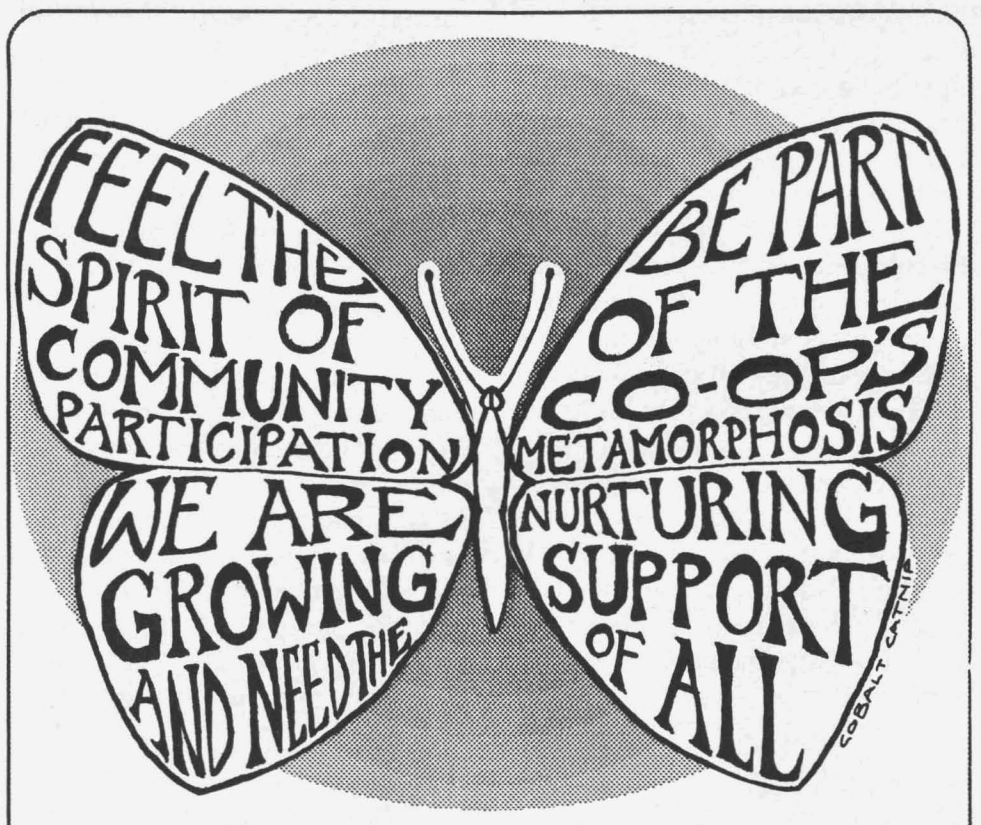
Moreover, the projections for the next several decades indicate that California's pluralistic ethnic environment will become the norm for much of the country. According to the Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute, the Asian American population between 1990 to the year 2020 will triple to about 20.2 million. Latinos will surpass African-Americans as the largest single ethnic minority by approximately 2010. In thirty years, more than forty percent of the total American population will consist of people of color, and in many major urban areas, English will become a distinctly "second language."

Significantly, millions of these new ethnic minorities do not consider themselves to fit within the standard racial categories of "black" and "white." In the 1990 census, for example, 51 percent of California Latinos stated that they were "not white, black, Indian or Asian," and selected the racial designation of "other."

Despite their status outside traditional racial boundaries, the nonwhite newcomers have quickly encountered the familiar racist violence which African-Americans know only too well. The newsletter of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence has recently listed a series of racially-inspired assaults against Asian Americans. These include: the murder of a sixteen-year-old Japanese exchange student in Baton Rouge, Louisiana last October; the vicious beating and death of a nineteen-year-old Vietnamese pre-med student in Coral Spring, Florida, when he objected to being called "Viet Cong" and "Chink" by fifteen white youths; and the murder of a Japanese-American woman in her home by a white gunman in Watsonville, California.

African-Americans must take the lead in recognizing that the struggle for equal rights in the twenty-first century requires an extensive and sympathetic dialogue between all of this country's nonwhite minorities. The achievement of equality means going beyond the old boundaries of black and white, facing the reality of multicultural America.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and Director of the African-American Studies Institute, Columbia University, New York. Along the Color Line is featured by over 250 publications and 75 radio stations internationally.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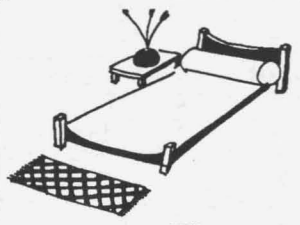

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Toxic Faith
The Religious Addiction to Power

Dan Slaby

Religious cults, and the cultic worship of a personal representative of God, have been an historic reality in the Christian world ever since the Apostle Paul adopted the mystery cults of ancient Greece to form the conceptual structure of the early church. In America, the practice of cultic worship amalgamates the features of politics and mass marketing with the myth of success. Religious cults make the promise of problem-free living, of miraculous healings and individual possession of special power. Religious cults find fertile ground in America, with a tradition of pluralism and protective separation of church and state. The emphasis on individualism in a competitive society creates a condition of vulnerability in which only the strongest of persons can expect to survive without experiencing a sense of loss or abuse.

Individual addiction to cultic worship bears a strong relationship to parental upbringing. Cult members typically come from dysfunctional families where children experienced a lack of love and parental abandonment. Most often cult worshippers were victims of abuse who turned their rage into self-hate. Abuse was often done by a trusted person in authority, which created a dilemma for the victim. The victim would be expected to seek the protection of the very person who committed the abusive act.

The beliefs that underlay cultic worship mimic the abusive relationship. Such beliefs center around the concepts of an authoritarian God who is powerful, all-knowing, and possessive. The central theme for cultic worship is "Trust and Obey" for God knows best. Cultic worship requires obedience to authority, whether that authority is the person of God, the cult leader or an impersonal document that is taken unquestioningly as the authoritative word of God. Followers are expected to submit and pander to the structure of authority in the cult to gain favor and avoid retribution. Since the Apostle Paul distanced the early Christian movement from its Jewish roots, the social reform message of Jesus has been converted to a form of cultic worship in complete disregard for his example and teaching. When scripture became canonized into an exclusive text, the communicative dialogue necessary for building a mutually accepted moral base for community was thwarted. It is this requirement for adherence to an absolute authority that makes the religious cult a closed society centered in the power of unquestionable authority.

Fundamentalist, charismatic and pentecostal movements perpetuate the antisocial and escapist character of cultic worship. Persons with addictive behavior patterns are able to substitute ritual behavior for their addiction. Ritual behavior is addictive behavior expressed in a closed environment that excludes critical examination. Religious addicts seek relief from pain and escape from the reality of their situation by participating in ritualized emotional frenzies. The ritual substitutes for critical self-examination and rational problem solving that would require the person to take responsibility for their situation. By surrendering their problem to God and submitting to authority, individuals forsake their opportunity to learn, develop and grow through the process of accepting and solving their problems.

Cults operate under several rules that perpetuate the power structure of the organization. The cult leader must be in control at all times.

The failure of the religious cult to deliver on the promise of problem free living is met with denial, and blame-setting on the individual and society. Failure is always evidence of that person's sin and willful disobedience. If the failure involves a person of standing in authority, the fault is projected to the world outside the cult. Failure is not taken as a need to re-evaluate the basic assumptions of the cult, but as the work of evil intentions by outsiders who challenge and attempt to expose the faulty beliefs of the cult. Individuals who join the cult to escape their problems are not likely to change their mind and accept responsibility for them.

Cults operate under several rules that perpetuate the power structure of the organization. The cult leader must be in control at all times. All decisions are centered in the authority of the leader. Independent thinking is characterized as sinful willfulness. When problems arise, the cult immediately finds a guilty party to blame. By denying and avoiding personal responsibility, the members of the cult can avoid the reality of needed changes. Cults do not allow their members to make mistakes, and base this requirement on the Biblical precept to be "Perfect". Denying individuals the risk of failure also denies them their humanity. The fear of making mistakes motivates members to a belief of their spiritual elitism. Addicts to religious cults are not interested in reality. They avoid seeing how things are, and are more interested in how things should be. Much of cult ritual is performed to maintain the illusion that, within the cult, everything is the way it should be. Cult membership requires absolute loyalty. Problems and questions that raise doubts are considered resistance to the authority of the cult leader and its inerrant scripture, and subject to cult discipline. Individuals who joined the cult because of a childhood experience of abandonment, are easily controlled by the fear of isolation and banishment.

The cult does not permit freedom for personal growth, and requires everyone to behave within the confines of their role as defined by the cult. The suppression of personal growth and denying individuals with the inclination and the opportunity to take roles not authorized by the cult doctrine has been the root of many internal power struggles in cults. At all costs, members are expected to maintain the image of unity and cohesiveness. Deception and lying are accepted as necessary if that is the only way the image of togetherness can be maintained. The testing of factual evidence and equal discourse as a means of finding out the truth is not permitted when it conflicts with the image of group cohesion.

In the name of salvation, many people who have not been able to cope with their problems or who

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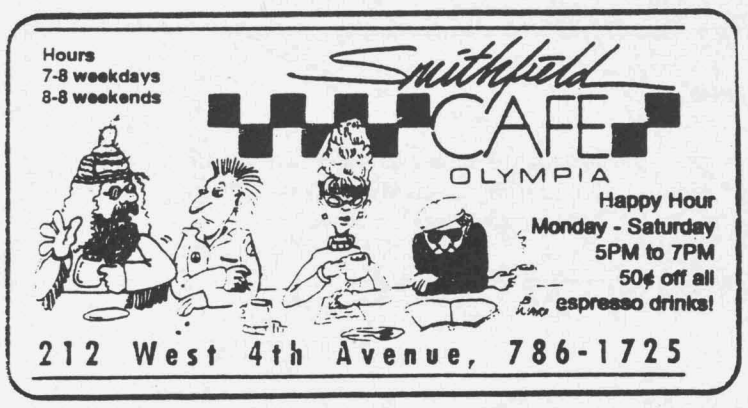


(Toxic Faith, Continued)

have been frustrated in their attempt to gain power, position and reputation, have participated in founding and perpetuating authoritarian religious organizations. Cults have enabled people with addictive personalities to substitute one addiction for the addiction of an emotional religious ritual that receives the social approval and support from other like addicted persons. It is the control and manipulation of the addictive personality that creates the power base of the cult. It is the protected position of religion in American tradition that prevents religious cults and organizations from being subject to the same open examination that applies to non-religious organizations. In America, religious organizations are operated like a business with the same focus on corporate wealth accumulation, leadership power and market penetration.

It has been the public policy to exempt religious organizations from taxation. Yet these same organizations have benefitted from the tax supported social and community infrastructures that permit the accumulation of wealth, often to the point of total exhaustion of the personal financial resources of its members. Tax exemption is a subsidy. Individuals who would not voluntarily give support to a particular religious organization are compelled as a matter of public tax policy. Protecting the right to free assembly should be a major public policy, but public subsidy of religious cults without public accountability should not be. People who can choose to join a religious group should also be able to leave that group no poorer than when they came. Supporting cults that cater and capitalize on the addict's escape from reality and responsibility is a sign that we, as a society, may prefer to divert attention from our problems and the need for social reform. Supporting these organizations to create enclaves of confined social groups only perpetuates the lack of communication that hinders the healthy identification and solution of our problems on an individual and community basis. ☼

Boycott Boom Continues

Zachary D. Lyons

They're at it again in Alaska. The State of Alaska has announced plans to kill wolves again, beginning as early as October 1, 1993, in spite of an agreement reached with environmentalists at the so-called "wolf summit" in January where Alaska's governor agreed not to put forth a state sponsored "wolf-control" program during 1993. The state plan is for the expressed purpose of reducing t he wolf population as a means of increasing big game numbers for hunters.

The coalition of animal rights and environmental groups that successfully boycotted Alaska just last year over the same issue has begun to organize an even bigger assault on the state's tourism industry this year. But even with last year's victory, some 1,100 wolves were killed in Alaska in 1992. And wolves are under attack in Western Canada as well, where government sanctioned wolf kills in British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon Territories have led to boycotts of all three regions.

In other news from Alaska, the battle over the Iditarod Dog Sled Race intensified earlier this month when three major sponsors withdrew their funding for the event. The International Society for Animal Rights (ISAR), which has called for a boycott of Iditarod sponsor, IAMS Petfoods, calls the race inhumane and historically inaccurate. ISAR explains that the race claims to commemorate:

"a valiant 1925 run to carry medicine to diptheria-striken Nome. But history books say that 674-mile event [compared to Iditarod's 1,159 miles] was a relay! The serum was passed from one team to another - twenty in all."

Six dogs died in the 1993 race, and continued charges of inhumane breeding and racing practices for the $400,000 first prize race have led to extraordinary pressure coming to bear on the corporate sponsors who foot Iditarod's $1.4 million budget. In early August, Chrysler, ABC Sports and Alaska based Alascom all withdrew their funding, costing Iditarod almost a quarter of a million dollars. And signs of waffling are been seen in the ranks of the race's two other major sponsors, outdoor clothier Timberland, good for almost $300,000, and IAMS Petfoods, good for $125,000.

Animal rights groups have focused on IAMS because of the company's public image of caring for animals. "IAMS has said it is 'dedicated to the well-being of *all* dogs and cats,'" says ISAR. "We say, 'Get real! Prove it! Get out of Iditarod!"

ISAR (for IAMS and Yukon)
421 South State Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

John Suter (IAMS)
PO Box 670144
Chugiak, AK 99567

In Defense of Animals (Alaska)
816 West Francisco Blvd.
San Rafael, CA 94901

Clay Mathile, Chairman
IAMS Petfoods
7250 Poe Avenue
Dayton, OH 45414-5801

Governor Walter J. Hickel
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

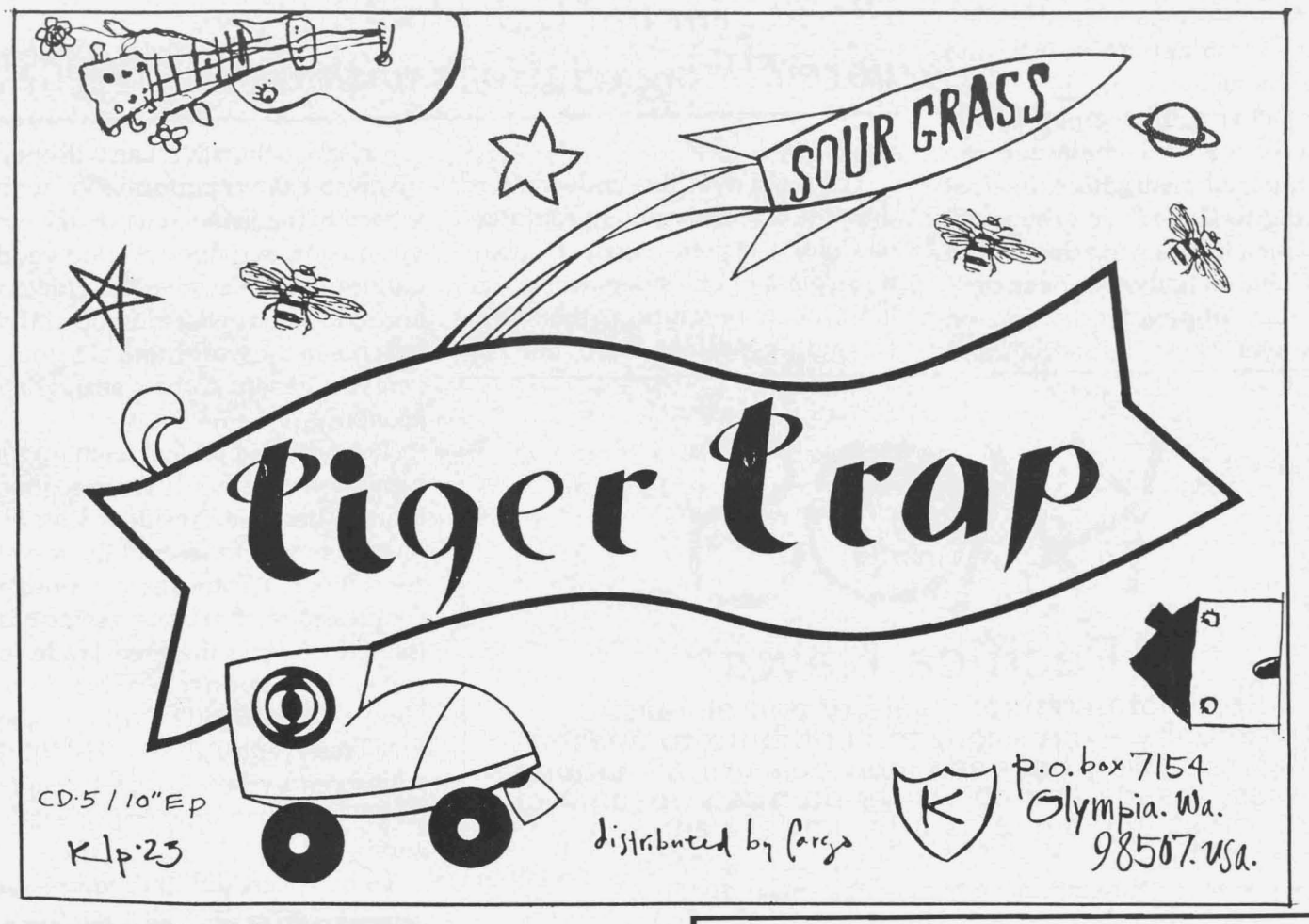
On the Labor Front:

State Farm Insurance Companies has become the latest target of a labor boycott. Earlier this month, Allied Industrial Workers of America (AIW) Local 837 announced that State Farm would be added to its ongoing boycott called against Domino sugar parent Tate & Lyle. AIW charges that State Farm has a history of financing antilabor companies, including heavy investments in Caterpillar machinery, Archer Daniels Midland and the Central Illinois Public Service Company, which locked out 1,700 utility workers in May .

Tate & Lyle locked out 760 members of AIW Local 837 on June 27, 1993, reports the union. Local 837 charges that the company is making outrageous demands and eroding health and safety conditions at the sugar plant, and the union says the lock out is an "attempt to frighten us and our families." Workers have reportedly had 12-hour rotating shifts imposed upon them since the dispute began almost one year ago.

AIW Local 837
2882 North Dinneen
Decatur, IL 62526

Edward B Rust Jr., Pres.
State Farm Insurance Companies
One State Farm Plaza
Bloomington, IL 61710-0001 ☼



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A Step Toward Normalizing Relations With Cuba

Global Exchange

The Freedom to Travel Campaign

Global Exchange, a nonprofit organization, has launched a campaign to end the U.S. restrictions on travel to Cuba. Just what are these restrictions and why do we want them lifted?

U.S. citizens are technically allowed to visit Cuba. But unless they are journalists, professional researchers, or Cuban-Americans visiting relatives, they are not allowed to spend money on the island. This monetary restriction is, in effect, a travel ban and those who violate it are subject to up to ten years in prison, a $250,000 criminal fine, and a $50,000 civil penalty. This is quite a drastic punishment for visiting our neighbors, especially since the Cold War is supposedly over! And why this blockade against Cuba when we can travel freely to the world's largest communist country--China--and when we are now normalizing relations with Vietnam?

A group of U.S. citizens has informed Global Exchange that they will challenge these ridiculous restrictions by travelling with their families for a vacation to Cuba, as thousands of people do legally every week from Canada, Latin America, Europe, and other parts of the world. This group will comprise families, individuals, and well-known political and cultural figures. Global Exchange wants to make sure that their bold action is backed up by the national publicity and grassroots awareness necessary to make Washington take heed and lift the travel ban.

On October 10, a group of 100 U.S. citizens will challenge the U.S.-imposed restrictions against traveling to Cuba. The group will fly to Cuba through Mexico to visit their Cuban neighbors in open defiance of U.S.-imposed restrictions on such travel. These individuals and families--most of whom do not fit the legally allowed categories (journalists or researchers)--will fly from their native cities all over the United States to Cancun. From there they will book passage through a Cuban travel agency to Havana.

The group will spend one week in Havana, getting to know Cuban people and culture, enjoying the natural beauty of the island, confirming their desire for friendship with the people of Cuba and for a normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

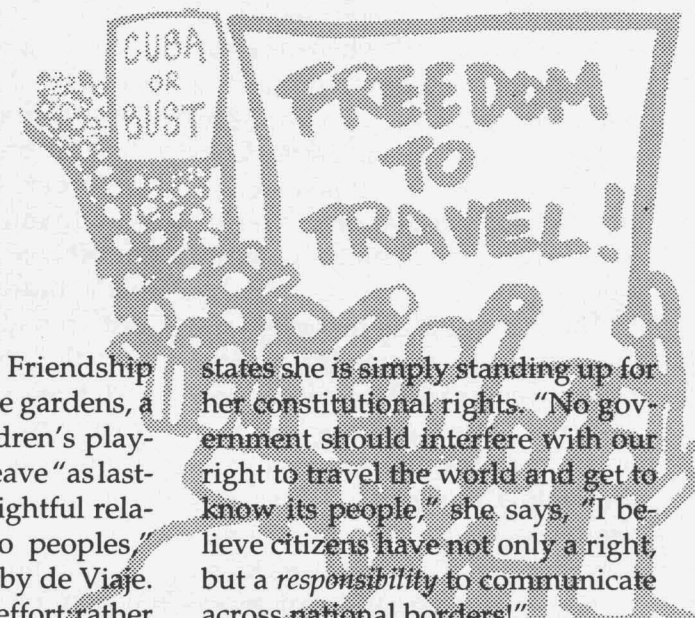
They will work together with Cubans in a Havana neighborhood to build a U.S.-Cuba Friendship Park, which will include gardens, a mural project and children's playground equipment, to leave "as lasting monument to the rightful relations between our two peoples," says trip organizer, Libby de Viaje.

This is not an isolated effort; rather it is part of a series of actions challenging U.S. policy towards Cuba. Pastors for Peace set a precedent last November by taking food and medicines to Cuba without a license. Their second caravan this July was three times the size of the first! Pastors for Peace has said they will make this Travel Challenge their fall project. The National Network On Cuba has called for a week of actions against the blockade October 10-17.

The Cold War has ended. Why does the U.S. government continue its Cold War policy against Cuba? Regardless of one's perspective on the Cuban revolution, this tiny, struggling nation of 10 million people is not a threat to U.S. national security. Lifting the travel restrictions is a logical and important step towards dismantling the 32 year old U.S. blockade and normalizing relations with Cuba.

According to Ms. de Viaje, the United States is the only Western democracy that interferes with its citizens' right to travel. De Viaje states she is simply standing up for her constitutional rights. "No government should interfere with our right to travel the world and get to know its people," she says, "I believe citizens have not only a right, but a *responsibility* to communicate across national borders!"

With glaring hypocrisy, the U.S. government criticizes other governments that limit their citizens' rights, while it tightly restricts U.S. citizens' right to travel to Cuba and threatens violators with severe fines and prison terms. We believe that there is no valid rationale for this continuing violation of the rights of U.S. citizens to informational and human exchange with Cuban people.



Lifting the travel restrictions is a logical and important step towards dismantling the 32 year old U.S. blockade and normalizing relations with Cuba.

An end to the travel ban will open up the free flow of information with regard to medicine, science, the environment, agriculture, sports and culture. It will also give U.S. citizens access to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and U.S. tourism will benefit Cuba's struggling economy.

The target of Global Exchange's campaign is primarily the executive branch, because President Clinton has the power to rescind the travel restrictions. We are also promoting congressional efforts addressing this issue, including the Free Trade In Ideas Bill sponsored by Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), and the Free Trade With Cuba Bill (HR 1943) sponsored by Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) to lift restrictions on trade and travel.

To be successful, this campaign must reach the broadest audience possible. We will be working with a public relations firm and a professional publicist to place ads in major newspapers, hold a national press conference to coincide with the travel challenge, and do follow-up media work upon the group's return.

Global Exchange is also promoting public awareness by organizing at the grassroots level. We are gathering endorsements from public figures, community leaders, and sympathetic organizations. We are organizing petitions, letter-writing, and delegations to the offices of federal, state, and local politicians. We are speaking at colleges, churches and community centers. We are publishing articles, pamphlets and education-for-action packets explaining the travel ban and what we can do to lift it.

In conjunction with this campaign, Global Exchange is also protesting the arbitrary denial of U.S. visas to Cubans invited to the United States for professional and cultural exchanges. As in the case of the travel ban for U.S. citizens, this policy of keeping out Cubans with "contrary views" is a holdover of the Cold War which makes no sense. Global Exchange is publicizing this arbitrary policy, pressuring the State Department to lift its restrictions, and encouraging groups around the country to invite more Cubans for "people-to-people" exchanges.

The National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee has agreed to organize a legal team to provide consultation and defense, if necessary. Our legal counsel advises us that endorsers may or may not be subject to legal liability for this action; however, the more likely targets in the case of prosecution is the organizers of the challenge, not the endorsers. In addition, the more endorsers there are, the less likely the government will be to go after any particular endorser or the group as a whole. The organizations that sponsored the Pastors For Peace Friendship Caravan have not suffered any legal reprisals.

Now is the time to reclaim our constitutional right to determine for ourselves what is going on in the world and what we think about it, to reclaim our rightful relationship with our neighbors in Cuba, to help bring the Cold War--once and for all--to an end, and hopefully, to contribute toward a legacy of peace in this hemisphere for our children!

Round trip from Cancun to Havana, two meals a day, all accommodations, transportation, and itinerary in Cuba: $800 adults, $500 18 and under, infants (2 years and younger) free. Family rates available.

For more information, contact: Libertad de Viaje, Freedom to Travel Ad Hoc Committee, PO Box 401116, San Francisco, CA 94140-1116 Phone 415-558-9490 FAX 415-255-7498

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Message of Freedom Socialist Party Convention:

The Fight for Socialism Lives!

Linda Averill

For revolutionaries, rabble-rousers, and rights activists, the '90s have been traumatic. Veteran radicals are hard put to maintain their optimism and equilibrium while McDonald's golden arches sprout in the former Soviet Union, media pundits harp on the supposed "death of communism," Patriot missiles rain down on Iraq and Somalia, and racism and sexism come out of the closet again.

Under these hostile conditions, many left-leaning organizations and newspapers have capsized.

But not everyone is adrift. The same events which have swamped some have spurred others to a new level of dedication to the struggle for fundamental change.

The Freedom Socialist Party is among the latter. Over the July Fourth holiday weekend, the FSP convened at Alderbrook Inn Resort on Hood Canal to assess what Guerry Hoddersen, the party's National Secretary, called "the tumultuous events shaping the '90s into the most contradictory yet promising decade of this century" and to discuss how to stimulate "the resurgence of a clear-headed, multi-racial, socialist feminist vanguard."

Uniting movement activism and class analysis

The FSP originated in 1966 as a synthesis of the old and new Left, and was originally made up of the former Seattle branch of the Socialist Workers Party plus independent radicals. Its raison d'etre was its unique recognition that the fight for socialism is intrinsically tied to the liberation campaigns of the most oppressed--women, people of color, lesbians and gays, and national minorities. The FSP's commitment to feminism, Trotskyism and Leninism set it apart from every other party of that era. Party leaders credit this unique program and heritage as the reason for the organization's longevity.

In the 1970's, the party went national, building branches on both U.S. coasts; in the Reagan-Bush years it went international, establishing sympathizing sections in Melbourne and Vancouver, B.C.

Some of the party's most exciting recent work has been in the electoral arena, where FSP ran candidates for Seattle City Council and governor of California; in the West Coast anti-Nazi movement, where it created a direct action united front to challenge white supremacists like Bo Gritz and Tom Metzger; and with the labor movement, where other unionists are responding enthusiastically to its call for an anti-capitalist rainbow Labor Party.

Promising times ahead

The convention opened on Friday, July 2 with an analysis of the world situation by Andrea Bauer, editor of the *Freedom Socialist* newspaper.

She pointed out that the planetary maelstrom of counterrevolution, war, nationalism, and resurgent fascism results from a combination of two things: the fall of the USSR and the Eastern European workers states, and the desperation of declining world capitalism. However, she identified a silver lining to this ugly cloud: the people of the former Soviet bloc, by sweeping away the hated bureaucratic regimes and thereby liberating socialism from the shackles of Stalinism, took an indispensable step toward establishing *authentic* workers' democracy internationally.

FSPers are confident that once these workers forge a program and leadership that represents their still-socialist aspirations, capitalism's shaky comeback in Eastern Europe, already playing to bad reviews, will be closed by popular demand.

Presenters from Canada, where "free trade" with the U.S. has wiped out a million jobs, and Australia, where tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest new austerity measures, added to the general picture of capitalism in crisis and the desperate need for visionary, socialist leadership.

In every country, from Moscow to Belgrade, {Seattle gay rights advocate Su Docekal and longtime Portland Radical Women Organizer Adrienne Weller} found budding movements of socialists, feminists, and anti-Nazi activists eager for collaboration.

On Saturday morning, attendees heard firsthand about turmoil in the former Soviet bloc from Seattle gay rights advocate Su Docekal and longtime Portland Radical Women Organizer Adrienne Weller. The two had just returned from a seven-country tour sponsored by Radical Women, FSP's sister organization.

While their slides and stories eloquently conveyed the hardships of everyday life, the duo's prognosis was upbeat. In every country, from Moscow to Belgrade, they found budding movements of socialists, feminists, and anti-Nazi activists eager for collaboration.

Doug Barnes, an *FS* photojournalist who visited Cuba in January, reported on that country's efforts to remain on a socialist course in the face of the U.S. embargo. His projection: Cuba can triumph if it expands democracy internally and solicits and receives help from abroad. FSP supported the recent embargo-busting aid Friendshipments, organized by Pastors for Peace, by raising money and hosting forums on the economic blockade.

Exploring what it means to be a revolutionary

On Sunday afternoon and Sunday morning, the convention addressed party affairs in the context of the pressures and enticements on revolutionaries during a period of relative conservatism.

The event prompting this discussion was a split created by former leaders in the San Francisco Bay Area who came into money and then generated a dispute over how instances of internal racist insensitivity were handled--all to cover their desire to get out of a life they no longer were committed to.

The party majority, including those who had experienced the racism and the National and Bay Area Comrades of Color Caucuses, favored a confrontive but educational and problem-solving approach. When the predominantly white minority-opinion faction persisted in clamoring "Off with their heads," it was apparent that something more was going on.

What that was became clear only months after the faction quit the party, when they began circulating papers expressing their disenchantment with basic tenets of the FSP program and its organizational methods, or Leninism--the idea that a well-disciplined, well-organized party is necessary if the working class is to seize state power.

In discussing the faction's desertion, convention participants agreed that the dropouts had become demoralized and fed up with the responsibilities associated with leadership--and, like many renegades, they felt compelled to justify their abdication by repudiating their former beliefs.

Convention-goers also recognized that before the faction fled from leadership, they had tried to hoard it, by discouraging the comrades of color in their branch from being critical, learning new skills, or stepping out politically.

In contrast, the party convention was a call to rise to the demands of shared leadership in the organization--women and men, gays and straights, people of color, Jews, and whites, all fighting *together*--and a recognition of the impressive degree to which party members, particularly in the Bay Area, had already accepted this challenge.

To resounding cheers from the whole assembly, Bay Area FSP Organizer and Asian American poet Nellie Wong described the process of revolutionary self-assertion: "Blossoming into maturity takes a lot of hard work. We got our feet wet in the rapids of the faction fight. We had to grow up fast. We had to become our own heroes, our own leaders."

Jewish and labor activist Henry Noble, a member of the FSP's international coordinating committee and participant in the convention's men's caucus, said after the gathering: "People in the party are not all that special. The fact that *we* can overcome the 'isms' that divide us means that our *class* can do this. We have a great sense of optimism about what class unity can and will accomplish in the '90s."

Eyes on the prize

The FSP's four-day look at its own record, and at the prospects for socialism in this explosive decade, left members encourage, inspired, and reinvigorated for the battle to make the antiquated social system, "Capitalosaurus Rex," extinct.

The party invites *Works In Progress* readers to learn more about the FSP by calling the National Office at (206) 682-0990 or by buying the convention documents "Careening Toward the New World: Revolt and Counterrevolution in the '90s" and "Renegades from Leninism Wallow in Cliches--A Response to 'Left Unity Through Innovations in Democracy.'" To purchase the convention papers, please send a check or money order for $2.75 per set plus $1.00 postage to Freedom Socialist Party, 409 Maynard Ave. South, Suite 201, Seattle, WA 98104.

¡Venceremos!

Journalist Linda Averill is a Metro bus driver in Seattle, member of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 587, abortion rights and antiwar activist, and past organizer for Seattle Radical Women.

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Star Trek--The Next Generation

The Lifeboat

by Jerome Johnson

"Captain's Log, stardate 0601.93. While en route to our next assignment, the *Enterprise* has received a distress call and is diverting to respond."

"Any contact yet, Lieutenant?" Picard asked.

"No sir," Worf replied. "The recorded message continues to repeat itself."

"Approaching the source of signal now," Data reported.

Picard's eyes narrowed. "Slow to impulse, Ensign Ro. Mr. Data?"

"The object is very small, sir--three meters by three meters by three meters. Minimal power levels. I am reading no life signs, sir."

Picard glanced at Troi, seated to his left. She shook her head.

On screen, a slowly drifting capsule appeared. It was octagonal in shape, with no visible propulsion units. Running lights blinked fore and aft, top and bottom. As the Enterprise drew nearer, an insignia beside some lettering became discernible: the name of a ship, SS Miranda.

"SS Miranda?" Riker mused, rubbing his bearded chin. "Wasn't that a pleasure liner, suffered warp coil failure about a year ago?"

"Correct, sir," Data said. "However, the Miranda's mishap occurred more that two parsecs from this position, nearer to the Khomana system. Most of the passengers and crew were rescued by the settlers on Khomana II."

Picard nodded. "Yes, but I remember reading in Starfleet's report that an ion storm cut the rescue efforts short, with several persons unaccounted for. Search and rescue resumed after the storm passed through the system, but..." He shook his head.

Riker nodded. "Even if they survived the storm, the settlers wouldn't have been able to do much if they were blown out to the system. They don't have too much in the facilities department--they wouldn't have been able to help at all if the *Miranda* had been even a little further away."

"Is there no chance at all of survivors?" Troi asked, her voice somber. "Perhaps some kind of stasis?"

"Unlikely, Counselor," Worf answered. "The standard viability of a lifeboat is three months."

"A *Starfleet* lifeboat, by itself," Troi agreed. "But this one came from a luxury liner."

Riker looked inquiringly at her, but Picard nodded. "Quite right, Counselor. Despite appearances, it's worth investigating. Number One?"

Riker rose, as did Troi. "Worf, you're with me." He tapped his commo badge. "Riker to Engineering."

"LaForge here, sir."

"Geordi, we've found a lifeboat we're bringing aboard. Cargo Bay 3."

"Aye-aye, sir."

"Riker to Sickbay."

"Crusher here."

"We're going to need an emergency team in Cargo Bay 3 in about five minutes, Doctor."

"On my way."

The three of them--Riker, Worf, and Troi--entered the turbolift.

•••••

There had not always been lifeboats on ships.

When humans first reached for the stars, they shared the challenge common to all early spacefarers: space. Not the void itself, but rather the paucity of space on ships. Every millimeter counted, every chink used as effectively as possible. Crew areas were minuscule, and strict limits placed on the weight of belongings and people. The larger and heavier the craft, the more power required to operate it. Lifeboats were often considered unnecessary bulk. Until the 23rd century Starfleet was so small and distances between outposts so vast as to make rescue an unlikely event, even if one did make it to the lifeboat. The passenger liners carried them mostly for insurance reasons, and Starfleet favored the detachable-section approach for its ships.

By the early 24th century, however, things had changed. Starfleet was much larger, and growing steadily, making more patrols inside the Federation feasible. The Federation itself had become more tightly knit, more cohesive; as technology advanced, distances shortened.

As this occurred, there was naturally renewed interest in lifeboat technology. Although the Federation was becoming more consolidated, it was still possible that one could be adrift for months before being rescued (if ever). The challenge to Starfleet and civilian engineers was to make the lifeboats self-sufficient for as long as possible.

The result was the ASRV, the Autonomous Survival and Recovery Vehicle. They ranged in size; starships used the same three-cubic meter unit. The lifeboats were equipped with weapons, medical kits, pressure suits, food and water, tools. There was a gravity generator and a waste management system. A lifeboat even had sensor arrays and tiny impulse engines. It could be "gaggled" with other lifeboats, forming a single ship; and like its namesake it was compatible with water. A lifeboat could accommodate four to six humans for three months, at least.

Starfleet continued its policy of building ships capable of separating into components, *and* installed the lifeboats. When asked about the expense in testimony to the Federation Council, Admiral Linda Jackson endeared herself to spacefarers when she replied, "Space ain't safe, Councilor, but we can make it more safe. The safer we make it, the less sorry we'll be."

•••••

LaForge was waiting at the transporter console when they entered the cargo bay. He saw the phaser at Worf's belt. "Expecting rouble?"

"I doubt it," Riker said. "Data didn't pick up any life signs, but who knows?"

Just then Dr. Crusher came in, her aide guiding a hovering gurney. "Well?"

"Lifeboat," Riker answered. "No life signs, but....." He turned to the chief engineer. "Ready?"

"Ready, sir." He passed out masks. "Might want to put these on before we open up the 'boat. If someone's dead in there it could be pretty ripe." "Thanks," Riker said. "Energize."

The *Miranda* lifeboat shimmered into existence on the huge platform. Despite its ordeal it had a certain battered dignity, as if remembering its glamorous origin.

Masks in place, they walked over to the hatch. LaForge used one of his tools to open it, and they peered inside.

It was dark, but LaForge had prepared. He took a power cable from a locker and plugged one end into a socket. After a moment he found the lifeboat's external power socket, plugged in and switched on the cable. Energy surged in; the control console lit and the lights came on.

Crusher was the first inside, elbowing past Worf. She knelt beside the obvious corpse slumped in the chairbed, her scanner humming.

"Looks like a human male, no age yet," she said. "He's been dead about a year, preliminary cause....unknown. What's on his head?"

Riker was carefully removing a helmet from the skull. Its visor covered the eyeless sockets, and a cable led from it into the console. "It looks like a VRIU [Virtual Reality Interface Unit, pronounced "veroo."] Geordi?"

"I'd say that's what it is, Commander."

Crusher and her aide already had the badly decomposed body on the gurney. "Doctor, how long for an autopsy?"

"Two hours...maybe three."

"Okay," Riker said. "I think we can rule out murder, but I'd like to know why that man died. Ion storm, radiation, starvation--I want to know and so does the Captain. Worf, Geordi, go over this lifeboat. Let's all meet with the Captain for dinner, say 1900, in the Observation Lounge?"

"Aye-aye, sir."

•••••

At the head of the table, Picard patted his mouth with a napkin. "Doctor?"

Crusher chewed her roll, shook her head, swallowed. "Captain, the man's name was Nimi Terry, age 92 at time of death. He's listed on the *Miranda*'s manifest; the rest of his family was rescued, but they never found him. I don't know why he died."

"I beg your pardon?"

"He didn't starve--there was still plenty of food aboard when he died. The ion storm didn't kill him; there's no sign of radiation sickness or any other ill-effects from ion storms. No trauma to the body, no poison; he wasn't murdered and he didn't commit suicide. He wasn't injured prior to ejection. I don't understand."

"Mr. Worf?"

"The Doctor is correct, sir," the Security Officer said. "I don't know medical matters, but I confirm that the death was not the result of foul play or suicide. The lifeboat itself was not sabotaged, and its damage was minimal."

"Mr. LaForge, can you shed some light on this mystery?"

LaForge sighed. "Not much, Captain. All the lifeboat's systems are consistent with the wear and tear it's been through. As Worf said, nothing's been tampered with. No sign of phaser or torpedo damage. As far as I can tell it was functioning perfectly when Terry died. Systems failure didn't cause it."

"We did remove a VRIU from his head." Riker noted. "Could that have had anything to do with it?"

"I don't see how," LaForge said. "The unit he was wearing is for entertainment only."

"The log was of little use," Worf said sourly. "A brief description of the escape from the *Miranda*, and little else. He had been adrift days when death occurred, and a computer game was running at the time of death."

Picard's eyebrow rose. "A game?"

"Yes, sir. 'Swords and Dragons.'"

LaForge grinned, "Similar to your workouts, eh?"

Worf grunted uncomfortably as Troi said, "Of course! It would have been very boring, waiting to be rescued. He played to pass the time."

"Playing a game couldn't have killed him," Riker objected.

"Maybe not the game itself," Crusher said thoughtfully. "Worf, what was the status of the game at the time of death?"

He shrugged. "I do not know, Doctor, but I can call it up on the monitor."

Picard nodded. "Make it so."

•••••

Worf tapped keys at his place on the table. The viewscreen lit, showing a dark hallway. Ominous sounds--strange slitherings and scuttlings, the clash of arms, distant explosions, screams--issued from the speakers. A mail-clad warrior moved warily down the corridor, his sword held ready.

As the warrior rounded a corner, he was attacked by three monsters. A giant snake, a giant bat, and a four-armed, heavily muscled humanoid carrying a mace. The warrior killed the bat immediately, spinning to decapitate the snake. Yet even as the snake's fanged head fell in a shower of blood, Four-Arms chopped the warrior in half with a battleaxe.

The screen went dark.

"Computer," Crusher said, "compare time of death of computer character to actual time of Nimi Terry's death."

A pause, then: "Times are identical. 0312 hours, stardate 0419.92."

(Continued next page)

(Lifeboat, continued)

"Identical? Doctor?"

Crusher nodded, purpose in her green eyes. "Remember reading about the first holodecks, fifty, sixty years ago?"

"Sure," LaForge said. "What about them, Doctor?"

"Before safeguards were mandatory, people had serious--sometimes fatal-accidents," Crusher said. "It still happens, because some people dismantle the safeguards when they buy a holodeck. There were cases of starvation in the early 21st century when VRIUs first came out; people wouldn't log off in time to eat, and used catheters. They *lived* in virtual--but fake--reality."

"I remember reading about them," Troi said. "They were called 'cyberpunks.'" Her dark eyes widened. "Beverly, surely you don't think---"

Crusher looked her in the eye. "I think I do."

Picard was impatient. "Counselor?" he demanded.

Troi looked down at her hands. "Captain, there are some people--cyberpunks--who become addicted to living in the so-called 'virtual reality.' Not many, but some. It consumes them--"

"They neither eat, nor sleep, nor live a normal life," Crusher added quietly. "Intravenous feeding, catheters for waste, lack of sleep, Opticool for strained eyes. After a while, a few die from malnutrition mostly. Occasionally there is a death--like this one--we can't explain but which coincides with a 'death' in cyberspace.

"Hypothesis?"

Crusher drew a deep breath. "He was out there for months, Captain, with no one to talk to and nothing to do. I believe he began playing the game and, due to his isolation, became consumed by it. I think that after a time he was having difficulty separating reality from virtual reality. This was exacerbated by the fact that he hadn't yet been rescued. I believe the game became, eventually, more real than reality for him; and when he died in the game, his belief was so strong that he died in real life."

Picard's face was grave. "Counselor?"

"I would concur, sir."

It was very quiet in the room.

Finally Picard said, "I will notify the family...thank you."

His staff, around the table, inclined their heads.

Picard tapped his badge. "Picard to bridge."

"Bridge aye, sir," Data answered.

"We've solved the mystery, Mr. Data. Resume original course, warp-factor five."

"Warp-five aye, sir."

Picard looked thoughtfully out the window, at the beckoning stars. "Engage."

In a flash of light, the *Enterprise* was gone, streaking though the stars.

Jerome Johnson is Coordinator of The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

The Brisbane Experience

Marvin Saillard

Since 1890 the city of Brisbane, capital of the state of Queensland in Australia, has levied its local taxation on the site value of land. Brisbane, in common with the rest of Queensland and much of the remainder of Australia, does not tax buildings, houses, shops, warehouses, factories or other man-made products and improvements.

In May 1987, following complaints about the effects of delayed assessments of land sites, Brisbane's Lord Mayor decided to set up a committee of eminent local government and real estate experts, planners and economists, to study the city's system of raising its local revenues. The committee was instructed to make a wide-ranging review, taking account of other methods and mechanisms, for assessment and taxation, practiced throughout Australia and overseas.

After two and a half years, the 60 page report was made up of impressive recommendations and comments. It is a valuable treatise for anyone concerned with local government finance. The committee firmly asserted that "ability to pay" was not an acceptable basis for a local tax. They pointed out that not all residents of the city earned their incomes within the city limits, and not all of the people who earned their living in the city were residents of it. Moreover, income taxes fell indiscriminately, regardless of the services used or the benefits enjoyed. It was pointed out that the redistribution of wealth, implicit in income taxes, was no business of local government.

Poll taxes were rejected as being unfair to lower income earners, and being too difficult to collect and administer. Sales taxes, and all other forms of consumption tax, were undiscriminating revenue raising devices unrelated to benefits and costs of city services. The committee declared that the "benefits principle" was the most equitable and rational basis for local taxes. This means that, to the maximum extent possible, those who receive the benefits of local services should pay for them.

Finally, the committee came down emphatically, and unanimously, in favor of the city's existing system. This is a tax on property but levied on the land alone, not on the buildings or other improvements erected on the land. A charge on buildings or other improvements, they insisted, would penalize enterprise and development. In the committee's view, **every activity conducted in the city, used or occupied land.** It followed that, if every plot of land in the city were valued, taking account of any planning restrictions upon it, "a land-value charge should accurately reflect the benefit derived from its use or occupation."

Fairness to the citizens was not the only attribute that the committee saw in the land-value system. They declared that:

a. it encouraged development

b. it discouraged the speculative withholding of vacant land from productive use

c. it was relatively simple and cheap to administer

d. it was impossible to evade

e. it did not affect the free market allocation of resources

f. land owners could not pass the tax on to tenants

g. it tended to make land cheaper.

They strongly recommended annual re-assessments which would ensure that surprise increases in site values would rarely occur.

The committee unanimously agreed that a tax rate levied on the value of unimproved land was an appropriate means of raising local government revenue. Most of the members agreed that it was the most efficient and equitable source of general revenue both in principle and in practice. The is supported by the fact that the site value of the land is created by the community around it, and by the fact that there are no slums in the city of Brisbane.

[T]he "benefits principle" was the most equitable and rational basis for local taxes. This means that, to the maximum extent possible, those who receive the benefits of local services should pay for them.

This information is drawn from the July/August 1992 issue of the *Land & Liberty* newspaper. It was in a book review written by B.W. Brookes about *Committee of inquiry into valuation and rating summary*, and vols. I-II. Published by Brisbane City, 1989.

Marvin is a member of the Washington State Georgist Association, which is a chapter of Common Ground-USA.

These principles are from Progress & Poverty, a classic book of economic science and philosophy by Henry George.

Seven Nobel Prize winning economists have made endorsements of land value taxation. The current president of the American Economics Association, William Vickrey, also endorses land value taxation: "It t guarantees that no one dispossesses fellow citizens by obtaining a disproportionate share of what nature provides for humanity."

Study of a Two-Tiered Property Tax System in Urban Areas Before Legislature

The following is a resolution, drafted by Councilmember Mark Foutch and sponsored by the Olympia City Council. It was adopted by the Association of Washington Cities at its annual convention in Yakima on June 25th.

#13. A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO INITIATE A STUDY OF A TWO-TIERED PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM IN URBAN AREAS

WHEREAS, Due to past federal and state policies favoring the automobile and suburbanization, cities for decades have been severely challenged to retain healthy downtown cores where people can live, work, and find entertainment and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Rational land use policies would combat urban sprawl, reduce costs of providing public services, and preserve vital natural resources including clean air, pure water supplies, open space, farms and forest lands; and

WHEREAS, Washington State's growth management legislation directs our fast-growing regions to engage in progressive land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, Revitalization of our downtowns for multiple uses, including residential, would contribute directly to the goals of State growth management policies; and

WHEREAS, High downtown land costs will continue to impede this goal; and

WHEREAS, A two-tier property tax system applied in limited areas at local option has apparently contributed to downtown revitalization in other cities and states, most notable in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Association of Washington Cities calls upon the Washington State Legislature to commission an objective study of two-tier property tax systems, their application in other states, their advantages and disadvantages, and the process of implementation in Washington State if such a system is determined to be useful in carrying out the goals that have been recognized by the Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That such study also shall examine other strategies that my be used by cities and towns to encourage residential development in downtown areas.*

ADOPTION OF THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION IS RECOMMENDED.

*Added to original draft by AWC Resolutions Committee.

(WPAC, continued)

reported raising a total of $36,376.82 to "advance pro-life, pro-family legislation" through political and educational activities. State records also list Burman as president of another group, The Washington Project, described as an educational organization focusing on public policy.

Phone inquiries to WPAC, Washington Family Council, Washington United and The Washington Project resulted in each case in referrals to Burman. He failed to return *WIP*'s calls. Neither WPAC nor WFC responded to written requests for information.

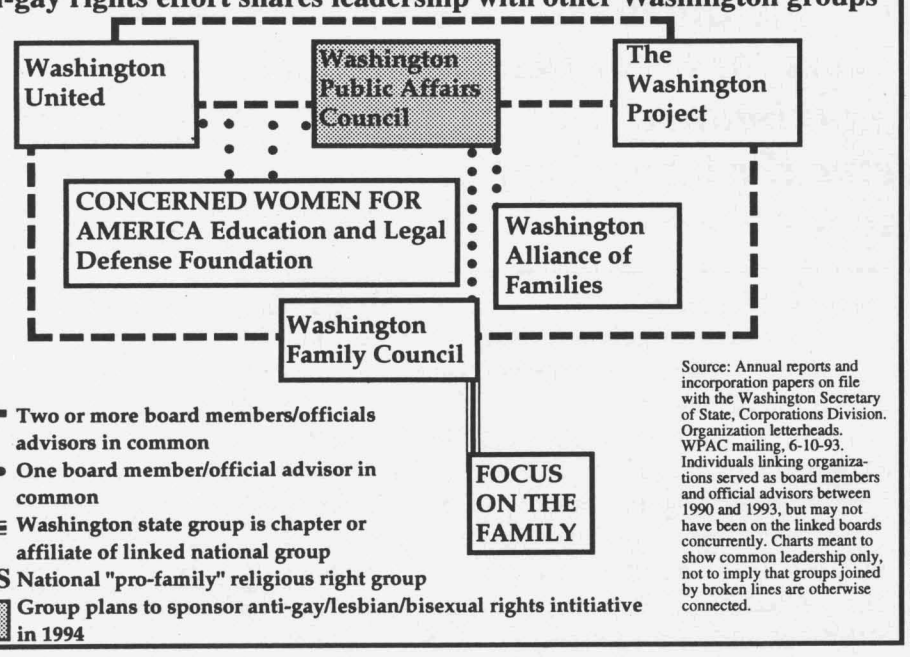
WPAC's advisory committee for the group's "Initiative to Stop Special Rights for Homosexuals" campaign includes experienced legislators and activists. Rep. Steve Fuhrman, R-Kettle Falls, introduced an unsuccessful anti-gay rights bill in the Washington state House this year and co-sponsored the last attempt to pass similar legislation, in 1986. Rep. Val Stevens, R-Arlington, spoke this summer at two western Washington training sessions for activists opposed to gay rights. Two years ago, her name appeared on the list of national board members of Concerned Women for America, another religious right group influential nationally.

WPAC advisor Dr. Robin Bernhoft headed Washington Physicians Against 119, reportedly serving as a spokesperson for the organization and meeting with editorial boards of the state's major newspapers during a successful campaign to defeat the 1991 death with dignity initiative.

Bernhoft and Burman were among Washington state activists quoted in an article published in Focus on the Family's national activist magazine, *Citizen*. The article lauds the Washington "pro-life" campaign as a national example, praising groups who opposed the 1991 initiatives for their "hard work, remarkable unity and a fresh approach." (See accompanying sidebar for more information about the tactics used in that campaign.)

Yet another member of WPAC's advisory committee, Cathy Mickels, has also appeared in *Citizen*, sharing expertise learned while leading her Washington Alliance of Families in fights against education reforms backed by the Washington Education Association. The list of advisors for WPAC's planned anti-gay rights campaign, named in a June fundraising mailing, also includes state Sen. Harold Hochstatter, R-Moses Lake.

Anti-gay rights effort shares leadership with other Washington groups


Washington United
Washington Public Affairs Council
The Washington Project
CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA Education and Legal Defense Foundation
Washington Alliance of Families
Washington Family Council
FOCUS ON THE FAMILY
Two or more board members/officials advisors in common
One board member/official advisor in common
Washington state group is chapter or affiliate of linked national group
CAPS National "pro-family" religious right group
Group plans to sponsor anti-gay/lesbian/bisexual rights intitiative in 1994

Source: Annual reports and incorporation papers on file with the Washington Secretary of State, Corporations Division. Organization letterheads. WPAC mailing, 6-10-93. Individuals linking organizations served as board members and official advisors between 1990 and 1993, but may not have been on the linked boards concurrently. Charts meant to show common leadership only, not to imply that groups joined by broken lines are otherwise connected.

WIP News Services

What to look for in '93-'94

Here are strategies "traditional values" activists claim to have used successfully in Washington state, on issues ranging from school curriculums to abortion and death with dignity legislation. Expect to see these and more during the Washington Public Affairs Council's anti-gay rights efforts of 1993-94. (See accompanying article.)

•Issue framed not as a religious or moral question, but in terms of alleged consequences to average voters, especially voters who do not attend church. More emphasis on practical problems than whether homosexuality is "right" or "wrong."

•The "pro-family/traditional values" attitude toward gay rights always presented officially in words is both moderate and reasonable. WPAC instructs supporters of its anti-gay rights campaign to "be fair-minded and reasonable . . . respectful and courteous".

•Campaign strategy based on polls measuring voter attitudes.

•Media campaign planned by advertising professionals.

•Spokespeople chosen because they are not yet publicly identified with the "traditional values" movement, and for their credibility on the issue of gay rights. [Expect "recovered homosexuals" and people who have had friends or relatives die of AIDS, tactics being used in other states.]

•A broad range of "pro-family/traditional values" groups working together to pass an anti-gay rights initiative, no matter what their usual issue or tactics.

•An anti-gay rights blitz in the Christian media as part of fundraising. [Focus on the Family programming is currently carried by more than 45 Washington state radio stations.]

•Education through supportive Christian churches, in the form of sermons, special speakers, bulletin inserts, and other printed materials. Some churches may pay for advertising in local newspapers, or make efforts to register supporters to vote.

•Grassroots voter outreach through doorbelling, literature distribution, phone calling, and publicized prayer "gatherings" or events. WPAC has promised to make available "hard-hitting speakers, brochures and videos" that "expose the true agenda and lifestyles of the homosexual movement."

Sources: Focus on the Family Citizen article "How Washington Defeated Death," 2-17-92. WPAC mailing dated June 10, 1993. Seattle PI, "Education reform under attack by Christian activists", 4-18-93.

WPAC Activities

WPAC's purpose, taken from incorporation papers received at the Secretary of State's office March 1 of this year, reads "to produce, promote, and pass into law sound policies in areas of law, economics and environmental stewardship, and to support the election of good candidates who will support the same." But their public activities to date have centered on efforts against gay rights.

A WPAC brochure entitled "Homosexuality and Public Policy" first brought the group to public attention, when copies were distributed to people waiting for a gay-rights legislative hearing last March. Attorney Geoff Swindler, representing the WPAC, submitted written testimony entitled "Equal Rights, Not Special Rights: A Legal Analysis of Senate Bill 1443" to the Senate Committee on Law and Justice later that month. (See accompanying sidebar.)

WPAC also sponsored a Washington state appearance by former U.S. congressmember William Dannemeyer in June. Dannemeyer spoke about traditional values and the culture war at a WPAC organizational meeting in Seattle. During a previous visit, on a KOMO talk show in 1989, Dannemeyer joined Burman in arguing against gay rights in the context of the Tacoma anti-discrimination ordinance. *Seattle Gay News* quoted Dannemeyer then as saying "When these people [gays] claim discrimination there's another side of the coin and that is the affirmation of the heterosexual ethic."

Financial disclosure reports reveal that WPAC raised $8,588.86 in cash and in-kind contributions between February and August of this year. "Pro-family" groups donating to WPAC include Mickel's Washington Alliance of Families; the Christian Coalition of King County; and the Youth Action Coalition, a Lynden group which recently sponsored a local visit by Kevin Tebedo, a leader of the 1993 Colorado anti-gay rights effort.

According to a mid-June mailing, WPAC plans to file a ballot "initiative to stop special rights for homosexuals" and begin signature gathering January 7, 1994. The four-page letter outlined "key objectives" in the group's "battle plan for victory", including grassroots organizing, recruitment of volunteers to gather signatures, and fund raising.

The mailing emphasized the strategic importance of local ties, stating that WPAC's anti-gay right efforts should be "Washington-based." "The media," one sentence reads, "would love to attack us by framing this campaign as an attempt by 'outsiders' to tell Washingtonians what to do." The same letter quoted Focus on the Family founder and president Dr. James Dobson.

Focus on the Family in Washington State

The Colorado-based religious right organization—which employs 1,100 on a $70 million annual budget—has participated in Washington state politics before. According to FF's magazine *Citizen*, during the 1991 Washington campaigns against euthanasia and abortion, Dobson focused two days of FF radio programming on the issues and sent a letter to FF supporters here.

Today FF continues to maintain a statewide presence. Some 45 Washington state radio stations now carry regular FF programming, including five who broadcast the Spanish-language "Enfoque a la Familia." Listeners in the Olympia area can hear twelve FF shows each

(Continued next page)

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(WPAC, continued)

week day, on stations KLDY-AM (680) and KVSN-AM (1500).

Copies of FF's *Citizen* distributed monthly in Washington state contain a four-page insert which typically provides information on local and statewide issues and suggests ways for readers to take action on decisions before lawmakers or voters. The July issue urged support for tax initiatives 601 and 602, reviewed the 1993 legislative session's "challenges to Washington families" (including health care reform), applauded "citizen pressure" for partially blocking education reform, and characterized gay-rights bills 1443 and 1569 as "special rights" legislation.The insert, called the *Washington Citizen*, is published by FF affiliate Washington Family Council.

Over the past nine months, WPAC president Burman has changed his title with the Washington Family Council from director to associate director and finally to consultant, downplaying—at least on paper—the extent of his involvement in an organization with national connections.

At the same time, FF stepped up its Washington state activities. This spring a full-page ad touting sexual abstinence for teens, identified with the FF logo and copyright, ran in at least three Washington newspapers, including the *Seattle Times* and the *Seattle PI*. The ad, which FF claims has appeared in 920 newspapers across the U.S. at local expense, asks readers to write to FF in Colorado for more information. Gay activists speculate that FF uses the sex education issue to identify people who may be friendly toward "traditional values" views in general, thus enabling FF and affiliates to target resources in efforts on other fronts, including work against bisexual/lesbian/gay rights.

In June, FF public policy seminar managers and research directors Greg Jesson and John Robert Eldredge conducted a Community Impact Seminar in Bellevue. Spokane will host a second workshop this month. The introduction to the seminar's general curriculum refers to a "war of values" being fought in America, and calls for "soldiers" who must be "equipped to take action."

A joint campaign?

FF is one of ten religious right organizations the watchdog group Political Research Associates identifies as playing a role in national anti-gay organizing. All of the organizations have been or are involved in other issues as well, recruiting, training and organizing grassroots activists for what FF's Dobson recently called on a radio broadcast heard here, a "civil war."

Abortion has been perhaps the most visible battleground in the conflict. National and local religious right skirmishers also take aim at sex education, general school curricula, textbooks, prayer in schools, pornography, public art, the role of government in American life and a host of other targets. But in a shift of metaphor, political observers say that attention has shifted to lesbians, bisexuals and gay men as the religious right's "cash cow." Those willing to milk societal ignorance and prejudices about sexual orientation drink the cream during fundraising and organizing efforts.

When FF moved its headquarters to Colorado Springs two years ago, anti-gay efforts in that state took on new life, according to Political Research Associates. Colorado for Family Values had already successfully defeated a local gay rights ordinance. With "advice" and in-kind donations from FF and several FF employees on its advisory boards, CFV managed to moblize voters statewide to amend the state constitution to forbid lesbians, gay men and bisexuals specific civil rights protections.

At various times since its founding in 1977 FF has distributed kits for grassroots activists interested in working against gay rights, including one packet entitled "The Homosexual Agenda: Changing Your Community and Nation," which includes a section on "Starting An Initiative." Gays and gay rights are a frequent subject of national *Citizen* articles. During the past year, authors have urged readers to buy and show their friends the anti-gay video *The Gay Agenda*, accused gay activists of employing "poor science to 'prove' that their sexual preference is biological destiny", quoted a retired Marine Corps General as saying "homosexual status . . . is a self-indulgent act", and reported on the 1993 March on Washington as "Weirdness on Parade."

One Washington state resident's written testimony to the legislature this spring on the subject of gay-rights was taken directly from a *Citizen* article entitled "Oppressed Minority, or Counterfeits?" Regardless of Focus on the Family's direct connections to WPAC, if any, the local campaign will benefit from FF's state and nationwide efforts.The religious right is firmly entrenched in the Pacific Northwest, where anti-gay issues effectively draw money and votes.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance provides a case in point. Although the OCA took part in anti-abortion organizing in its early years and has become a power-broker in Oregon Republican party politics, its only direct electoral success has come at the expense of bisexual/gay/lesbian rights. In 1988, the OCA managed a successful statewide initiative which overturned a governor's executive order prohibiting state agencies from discriminating against gays. (Last year the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled the initiative unconstitutional, restoring gay-rights protections.) Seven Oregon cities and counties have since passed OCA-backed ordinances forbidding the extension of civil rights protections to bisexuals, lesbians and gay men.

Since its founding in 1987, the OCA has grown from a mailing list compiled during an unsuccessful primary campaign to a self-styled national organization the *Oregonian* calls "an influential political machine." According to the Portland paper, the seven political action committees connected to the OCA raised more than $1 million last year.

The OCA continues attempts to widen its focus, filing Oregon initiative efforts concerning land use and tax control.This year the group also expanded its operations base, establishing chapters in Washington and Idaho. Both offshoots actively organize against gay rights.

Lon Mabon, who directs the OCA, told *WIP* last winter that he "consulted" with Burman's group during the successful 1989 campaign to repeal a Tacoma gay rights ordinance. At that time, Burman headed Tacoma's No Special Rights committee, a title also used then for a similar Oregon fundraising group affiliated with the OCA.

Mabon said that he considered locating the Citizens Alliance of Washington in southern Tacoma, where WPAC now has its office, before settling on Vancouver. Spokespeople for both groups remain publicly noncommittal about the possibility of a joint WPAC/CAW effort on a Washington state anti-gay rights initiative.

WPAC and CAW on Gays and Gay Rights ...

WPAC (Washington Public Affairs Council) and CAW (Citizens Alliance of Washington) have each announced plans to file anti-gay rights initiatives in Washington state next January. Here are some of their arguments against gay rights, paraphrased (for brevity) except where quotation marks are used.

Gay rights laws "promote acceptance of a behavior that is unnatural and repugnant, hurtful to the individual, and damaging to the community."

WPAC brochure, "Homosexuality and Public Policy"

Most "homosexuals" take part in promiscuous and unhealthy sexual behavior.

WPAC brochure, "Homosexuality and Public Policy"

Our country has gotten along for two centuries without "special rights or protections" for "homosexual people." At this time, "there is no crisis other than one which has been manufactured" by gays and supporters.

CAW testimony on HB 1443 to the Senate Law and Justice Committee, March, 1993

Gay rights laws interfere with the rights of others. For example, employers are 'denied the right to determine if the moral character and behavior of a job applicant will affect his job performance." Religious organizations and others will also be forced to hire those whose "life-style" as 'practicing homosexuals" goes against the employer's own moral beliefs.

WPAC brochure, "Homosexuality and Public Policy"

"Compassionate" people should treat a 'homosexual" as a 'responsible moral being who can and should change his behavior." "Homosexual" behavior should not be encouraged any more than one would encourage an alcoholic to drink.

WPAC brochure, "Homosexuality and Public Policy"

If HB 1443 became law (adding the phrase "sexual orientation" to the list of groups protected by anti-discrimination laws), this state would have "conferred legitimacy, special status" on people who deliberately take part in "an extremely hazardous behavior." Our young people will understand that "hazardous behavior has been granted the state's stamp of approval."

CAW testimony on HB 1443 to the Senate Law and Justice Committee, March, 1993

"[Homosexuals] are probably the most powerful political group in Washington State."

WPAC testimony regarding HB 1443 to the Senate Law and Justice Committee, March, 1993

Copies of "Homosexuality and Public Policy" are available from WPAC, P.O. Box 98292, Tacoma, WA 98498. Send $2 for 10 brochures. For free copies of WPAC's testimony by Geoff Swindler and CAW's testimony by Robert Larimer, Jr., in March, 1993 to the Washington State Senate Law and Justice Committee as the committee considered HB 1443, call the Senate committee staffperson at 786-7462

(H.E.L.P., continued)

most visible component of this strategy was their Community Resource Fair, which took place last February 24th. The Fair offered the homeless immediate access to many social service agencies in one central location, and provided them with information regarding housing assistance and employment.

The bulk of HELP's work, however, has been fairly understated political advocacy. In a time when many Washington residents are clamoring for tax cuts, the political climate for implementing HELP's "home philosophy" is, to say the least, tenuous . As the situation now stands, unless a significant percentage of Olympia residents take a vocal stand on this issue, the status quo policies of the Salvation Army are likely to remain unchanged. The SA have been established in Olympia for over a hundred years, and their economic and political support system is formidable.

Because of the politically volatile nature of their advocacy, HELP, as Shaw told me, "needs to grow. This organization was *meant* to grow, and without more human resources, we would stagnate, dry up, and blow away." Shaw is calling for volunteers who will help him establish a twice-monthly newsletter and communications network whose task will be to make the "home philosophy" a viable, cost-effective reality for Olympia. He hopes to coordinate a membership base that will subscribe to the newsletter and enable HELP to integrate its political advocacy more consistently into the public sector. On a more immediate level, he also needs volunteers to (a) help plan and implement a forum where the Olympia's homeless and its residents can exchange their concerns and fears openly (tentatively scheduled for October), and to (b) develop strategies for an even better Community Resource Fair early next year.

Admittedly, these are fairly HELP is trying to address are complex and highly charged, and no simple policies (or philosophies) claim to be all-encompassing solutions. Whether Olympia's homeless men will be able to obtain decent jobs, for example, regardless of what types of housing assistance they receive, remains an open question. As Randy Shaw explained to me, "The long-term, comprehensive success of HELP's home philosophy is not dependent upon job availability. It is founded on the common sense premise that a sense of belonging enhances one's self-esteem, and the greater a person's self-esteem is, the greater chance that a man has of achieving self-sustenance."

Should society be held accountable for providing these men with this "sense of belonging"? This is a question that I believe each person, as both a community member and an individual, must answer for his or herself. On a local level, however, one immediate fact remains clear. The existing reformist policies of the Salvation Army are, at the very least, making the rift between those who have homes and those who don't more strained. New ideas consistent with the changing shape and character of our homeless population need to be aired, and HELP's vision is, in my opinion, a hopeful, more compassionate stance towards the homeless that deserves to be cultivated. Only caring people can make changes happen. Silence and passivity merely replicate themselves.

Please consider becoming a part of the Homeless Empowerment & Lodging Project. Send your donations, letters of encouragement, or offers of volunteer assistance with HELP's Newsletter to Randy Shaw at HELP, 8205-E Martin Way NE, P.O. Box 252, Olympia, WA 98516-5769. If you would like more information, you can speak with Randy Shaw himself at 438-2905. Don't put this issue off, Olympia, it is *not* going to go away.

SEPARATION

IT'S SO HARD FOR A CHILD TO UNDERSTAND A SEPARATION
EVEN WHEN YOU DO TELL THEM THE SITUATION
BOTH THE PARENTS AND THE CHILDREN GO THROUGH A CHANGE
AND EVERY THING SEEMS SO STRANGE
SOME WILL BUILD A WALL
AND PRETEND THAT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED AT ALL
AND THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL HAVE A LOT OF BITTERNESS
BUT I THINK INSIDE IT'S A LOT OF EMPTINESS
I GUESS THE MESSAGE THAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU NOW
IS NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS YOU'VE GOT TO TRY TO BE HAPPY SOMEHOW
DON'T LET IT BRING YOU DOWN
BECAUSE IT HAPPENS IN EVERY TOWN
JUST KNOW IN YOUR HEART THEY STILL LOVE YOU
AND THEY WILL TRY TO HELP YOU MAKE IT THROUGH!

CATHY DURRETT

Indian Summer

You went away, and leaves began
to fall, as if they knew.
Then you returned, and summer reappeared
for a spell. But the leaves reserved

their gold, and more leaves fell, as in
a summer of the heart unreal,
that passed as through in memory alone:
That passed as small boys pass

down gravel roads,
carrying canepoles into winter,
catching the dust
between bare toes.

Michael McNeilley

Dream of the Working Poor

In your shoes
the world looks different
how do mine feel
tight or binding
or are they too big
can't describe, don't try.
you can work in them
they tell you
but can you.
Throw it off
Quit that job
and go lie naked on the beach
until the sun goes down
and then go home and breathe.

Sonya Bedillion

AFSCME Candidate Endorsements

Port of Olympia Commissioner	Aaron Owada
Olympia City Council Position 4	Cora Pinson
Olympia City Council Position 5	Holly Gadbaw
Olympia City Council Position 6	Margaret McPhee
Olympia City Council Position 7	Jeanette Hawkins
Lacey City Council Position 1	Nancy Peterson
Lacey City Council Position 4	Kay Boyd
Tumwater City Mayor	Ralph Osgood
Tumwater City Council Position 5	Tom Best
Tumwater School Board District 4	Elie Halpern
Tumwater School Board District 5	Roxanne Lieb
Olympia School Board District 3	John McGee
Olympia School Board District 5	Jerry Goebel

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WIP Schedule

WIP Article submission deadline is Wednesday
Sept 15
Also on that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH at 7 pm. SPEECH is 218 Fourth Ave. Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 22
at 7pm at the Olympia Timberland Library

Policy Meeting
First Tuesdays Sept. 7 & Oct. 5 @ 7pm. Call 357-4705 for place.

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